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1881

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF CANTERBURY,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

CONCORD, N. H.:
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1881.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of—J. M. Foster, Treas. for 1880,		$2068 47
M. B. Neal, collector,		5150 00
State Treasurer, R. R. tax,		166 11
State Treasurer, savings bank tax,		640 27
State Treasurer, literary fund,		85 47
County, on account of pauper aid,		273 81
State Treasurer, bounty on foxes and hawks,		32 30
Ex-Com. Tucker,		6 00
For Cemetery lots and grass,		8 65
C. W. Emery, tax on horses,		89
Barnard, Mrs. Reynold's tax,		4 15
Non-resident highway receipts,		67 71
Abatements on taxes,		21 36
Discount on taxes,		151 00
		$8676 19
Paid,		7383 85
Amount in hands of treasurer,		$1292 34

Paid—On town orders,	$5807 53
State Tax,	1272 00
Damage to sheep by dogs,	64 25
Abatements on taxes,	21 36
Non-resident highway receipts,	67 71
Discount on taxes,	151 00
	$7383 85

JOSEPH M. FOSTER, *Treasurer.*

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Miscellaneous Bills.

Paid	J. B Sanborn for blank books and surveyor's warrants,	$5 33
	Blank warrants and stationery,	1 36
	Republican Press Association, printing report of 1880,	24 00
	John James, lighting Boscawen bridge, '79 and '80,	13 50
	Abel Boyes, illegal poll tax of '79,	91
	Frank Peverly, snowing bridge, '79–'80,	5 00
	A. H. Brown, balance school-house tax, for No. 7, assessed in 1872,	22 18
	Dr. Bucklin, return of births and deaths,	75
	Nahum Blanchard, moderator, March, '80,	2 50
	S. K. Boyes, non-resident highway tax,	9 65
	A. H. Brown, postal cards, paper and ink,	75
	County tax,	1431 00
	J. M. Foster, interest on Whidden fund,	8 00
	P. C. Clough, bill paid John Chamberlain, after report of '80, damage to wagon,	20 00
	P. C. Clough, services as selectman after report of '80,	5 75
	John H. Lyford, services as selectman after report of '80,	10 25
	Philbrick & Hill, 20 lights glass and paper of tacks,	98
	Henry A. Chase, damage to wagon, from defective highway,	1 50
	James Moore & Son, keg spikes,	3 25
	C. W. Emery, surveying road near P. C. Clough's, '79,	1 00
	Stephen E. Gale, non-resident highway tax,	4 31

Paid	Wm. Cogswell, 2 days' work in cemetery,	$2 50
	Wm. Cogswell, care town hall,	2 50
	Freight on spikes,	25
	John H. Rolfe, school-house tax, No. 20, Concord,	21
	A. H. Brown, books for poor children,	
	C. W. Davis' children,	3 07
	George Tucker's children,	1 27
	Fletcher girl,	18
	A. H. Brown, bolts and washers for cemetery gate,	17
	Warren D. Pickard, non-resident highway tax,	4 66
	Jeremiah Smith, " "	3 66
	R. Boynton, " "	5 66
	John Small, " "	5 00
	M. B. Neal, " "	1 50
	A. J. Taylor, over tax on farm,	1 78
	E. N. Chase, illegal tax on money in savings bank, in Mass., '79,	1 82
	David Morrill & Co., hall for road hearing, 3 days,	4 00
	D. M. Clough, to Concord about town line, 3 days,	5 00
	Joseph M. Foster, over tax,	89
	W. H. Carter, services after report of '80,	2 50
	Dr. Pattee, return of death,	25
	O. W. Dow, postal card, stamps and ink,	1 00
	Republican Press Asso., printing check lists,	10 00
		$1629 84

Payment on Notes.

Paid	Sally and Eliza Randall,	$804 67
	Shepard Phillips,	101 33
	Silas Q. Heath,	30 00
	Dora S. Evans,	48 38
	J. S. Elkins, F. W. B. Society note,	54 25
	Grover Merrill,	92 45
	Thomas Clough, guardian,	44 28
		$1175 36

Expense in Road Case.

Paid	Wm. Cogswell, for 16 dinners,	$5 32
	E. G. Chase, 48 meals,	18 07
	E. G. Chase, horse baiting,	4 40
	Henry E. Marsh, estimating cost to build road, 76 miles' travel and attendance,	20 00
	Lund & Foss, engineering service,	35 25
	Commissioners,	61 80
	Chase & Streeter, fees and expenses,	197 25
	A. H. Brown, baiting horse,	25
	J. M. Foster, meals furnished,	1 50
	W. H. Carter, 1 day,	1 25
	P. C. Clough, with engineer, counsel and commissioners, 3 days,	3 00
	P. C. Clough, twice to Concord, by request of counsel,	3 50
	David Morrill, before commissioners,	1 50
		$353 09

Bounties on Hawks.

Paid	Shepard Phillips,	$3 80
	Willie Ingalls,	60
	A. B. Chute,	80
	R. Bennett,	20
	Samuel Gilman,	20
	Henry Pickard,	80
	Edmund Lougee,	20
	Albert Blanchard,	20
	E. Kimball,	40
	George Sargent,	20
	George C. Batchelder,	20
	J. Fletcher,	20
	C. E. Morrill,	20
	George Morrill,	20
	John Ingalls,	20
	Francis Chaplain,	20
	R. C. Boynton,	20
	Josiah Jones, Jr.,	60
		$9 40

Support of Paupers.

Polly Shaw, county charge,	$106 35
Joseph Faulkner and wife,	6 25
Mrs. William and John Avery,	36 61
George F. Chaplain,	12 28
Charles M. Davis,	38 91
N. H. and children of N. F. Battis,	25 91
George Roberts,	27 50
Francis Whitcher,	12 86
Benjamin Rogers, claim of '79,	4 00
Arthur L. Weymouth, claim of '79,	8 00
William Avery, town charge,	15 25
John B. Carter, Jr., town charge,	20 55
O. W. Dow, overseer of poor,	26 25
	$340 72

Water on the Highways.

Paid M. B. Neal, agent, watering trough at Centre, from 1872 to April 1, 1881,	15 00
Charles Glines, watering trough, to April 1, 1881,	3 00
Joseph Heath, watering trough, to April 1, 1881,	3 00
E. Osgood, watering trough to April 1, 1881,	3 00
	$24 00

Roads and Bridges.

Paid Smith L. Morrill, for work on road near P. C. Clough's,	$95 00
Smith L. Morrill, 3570 feet of bridge plank,	42 84
John A. Small, breaking Belmont road, including $5 37 paid for help,	10 00
Frank Peverly, work on bridge,	50
John F. Lake, work on road, fall of '79,	8 87
Andrew Grover, work on bridge near W. H. Carter's,	15 00
W. H. Chaplain, cutting bushes and getting out stone,	2 50

Paid	Jeremiah Smith, moving wall, breaking road, including help,	$5 00
	E. M. Lyford, breaking Belmont road, spring of '79,	2 75
	S. K. Boyes, work on road and breaking, including help,	22 00
	Boscawen, repairs on Fisherville bridge,	434 74
	C. N. Clough, work and plank on Cool Brook and Boscawen bridge,	3 00
	E. Osgood, bridge plank,	1 35
	David Morrill, plank,	65
	John H. Lyford, work on road, 8 days,	12 00
	John H. Lyford, oxen ½ day, and powder,	1 10
	Josiah Jones, on road,	35
	Josiah Jones, Jr., on road and breaking,	5 17
	Bradley Kenney, "	1 50
	James D. Pease, "	50
	J. Batchelder, "	50
	John Weymouth, cutting bushes,	2 50
	E. M. Lyford, breaking,	50
		$668 32

School Money.

District No.	1—Samuel Gilman,	$143 96
	2—Eliza Randall,	60 04
	3—Smith L. Morrill,	93 97
	4—S. S. Davis,	119 98
	5—George Pickard,	84 95
	6—John H. Evans,	108 32
	7—A. H. Brown,	239 11
	8—James S. Kaime,	126 19
	9—John Ingalls,	27 79
	10—Mrs. D. M. Clough,	69 77
	11—Joseph Heath,	51 05
	12—Wm. W. Wheeler,	49 11
	7—(Loudon) Andrew G. Moore,	9 93
	20—(Concord) John H. Rolfe,	4 53
		$1188 70

Town Officers.

Paid	C. W. Emery, services as supervisor, 5½ days,	$8 25
	John Ham, " "	8 25
	John Ham, serving notice,	25
	Moses A. Foster, services as supervisor, 5½ days,	8 25
	A. H. Brown, clerk,	25 00
	Joseph M. Foster, treasurer,	30 00
	C. W. Emery, superintending school com.,	22 40
	John Ham, " "	15 00
	M. B. Neal, collector,	67 17
	O. W. Dow, selectman,	85 28
	John H. Lyford, selectman, overseer of poor,	91 25
	E. L. Batchelder, selectman,	53 76
	J. E. Kimball, auditor,	1 25
	Albert B. Clough, auditor,	1 25
		$417 36

Paid	State tax,	$1272 00
	Abatement on taxes,	21 36
	Non-resident highway receipts,	67 71
	Discount on taxes,	151 00
		$1512 07

Damage to Sheep by Dogs, allowed Spring of '80.

Paid	George F. Blanchard, eight,	$21 00
	W. Sargent, one,	4 00
	Hannah Moore, three,	8 00
	Frank Tallant, five,	12 50
	James Chase, one,	2 50
	Joseph Pickard, one,	2 25
	W. P. Small, one,	4 50
	Samuel Sargent, one,	2 25
	David Morrill, two,	4 00
	Sylvanus C. Moore, two,	3 25
		$64 25

RECAPITULATION.

Bounties on Hawks,	$9 40
Expense in Road Case,	353 09
School Money,	1188 70
Support of Paupers,	340 72
Water on Highways,	24 00
Payment on Notes,	1175 36
Miscellaneous,	1629 84
Town Officers,	417 36
Roads and Bridges,	668 32
State tax, non-resident highway receipts and discount on taxes and abatements,	1512 07
Damage to Sheep by Dogs,	64 25
	$7383 11

Whole amount of money on hand and received by the treasurer, including non-resident highway receipts and discounts,		$8676 19
Amount of payments for the same time,	$7383 11	
In the hands of the treasurer,	1292 34	
Discrepancy to balance,	74	
	$8676 19	

JOSEPH M. FOSTER, *Treasurer.*

OLWYN W. DOW,
JOHN H. LYFORD,
E. LAROY BATCHELDER, } *Selectmen.*

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer, for the year ending March 1, 1881, have attended to our duty, and find said accounts correctly cast and properly vouched.

JOSEPH E. KIMBALL,
ALBERT B. CLOUGH, } *Auditors.*

Financial Condition of the Town, March 1, 1881.

NOTES AND INTEREST.

Mittie C. Emery,	$321 68
John Glines,	215 30
Sarah A. Evans,	50 56
Eunice Morse,	115 78
Silas Q. Heath,	98 78
Sally and Eliza Randall,	2558 25
Lydia Carter,	89 04
Joseph H. Carter,	53 62
James S. Elkins,	759 70
Phebe S. Cofran,	563 31
Grover Merrill,	317 56
Joseph Pickard,	168 94
Mary E. Clough,	181 12
Mary E. Cawley,	198 90
Mary E. Clough,	162 04
Alvin N. Pickard,	137 49
Charles F. Adams,	63 63
George H. Ingalls,	144 18
Cora J. Kilton,	66 79
Mary A. Kilton,	210 24
Jonathan K. Taylor,	67 02
Mary M. Currier,	332 72
Luther Sargent,	219 14
William Whitcher,	436 80
Tristram Dearborn,	81 13
Charles M. Emery,	326 60
Almon J. Small,	5 44
Walter M. Small,	8 67
James A. Simpson,	338 67
Louisa Whidden,	463 54
Judith Peverly,	161 40
Nellie A. Dow,	14 70
Joseph M. Foster,	104 00
A. J. Taylor,	486 90
James S. Elkins, treasurer F. W. B. Society,	1247 63
Thomas Clough, guardian,	168 30
Shepard Phillips,	1401 28
Fred W. Ingalls,	183 16
	$12,524 01

Reported due from Collector Neal, Mar., 1880,	$1335 89	
Cr. by error,	664 27	
Amount remaining due,	$671 62	
Amount committed for 1880,	5374 85	
		$6046 47
Paid treasurer, cash,	$5150 00	
" highway receipts,	67 71	
" discount,	151 00	
" abatements,	21 36	
		$5390 07
Amount remaining due from collector,		$656 40
in hands of treasurer,		1292 34
due from Stephen Wiggin,		39 15
due from John E. Rines,		6 00
due from J. F. Langmaid,		8 00
due from M. B. Neal, abated tax rec'd,		2 82
		$2004 71
Due on notes,	$12,524 01	
Claims due the town,	2,004 71	
Indebtedness of the town over means,		$10,519 30
Amount literary fund,		1,336 96
Held in trust from B. Whidden estate,		200 00

SCHOOL REPORT.

District No. 1.—Blanchard.

Summer and fall terms taught by Miss Clara A. Johnson. Wages per month: summer term, $20; fall term, $20.40. No. of weeks: summer, 10; fall, 8. Whole number of scholars: summer, 29, average, 26; fall, 28, average, 23.

Miss Johnson came with an experience of two former terms in this district, and just what was expected was abundantly realized—a complete success. This teacher holds position in the front rank with worthy teachers.

Winter term by Miss H. Paulina Heath, who, though a stranger, came well reported with an experience of thirty former terms, and the result was very marked improvement throughout. Indeed too much can hardly be said in praise of the several terms.

This school, from being one of disorder and ill-repute, has grown to be one among the best—really, in some respects, a model school. And while we render credit to a good teacher, we must not forget that much of the improvement is due to a general interest manifested by parents and others in the frequent visits of the several terms. The register shows that the schools have been visited 117 times, thereby giving aid and encouragement to teachers and pupils.

District No. 2.—Emery.

Summer term taught by Miss Anna E. Sanborn. Wages per month, $16. No. of weeks, 7; No. of scholars, 12; average 11. Miss Sanborn is a faithful and hard-working teacher, and should have received a more cordial support from the district. The school appeared well, however, and the examination was very satisfactory, notwithstanding your committee visited it before the time appointed.

Miss Emma J. Morrill taught the winter term. Wages per month, $16; number of weeks, 9; number of scholars, 16; average, 14. Miss Morrill has deservedly found favor in this district. She has taught the school some five or more terms, and consequently brings to her assistance a knowledge of the wants of individual scholars, which cannot fail to be of value to any teacher. Considerable attention was paid to penmanship, and commendable improvement was made, not only in the style of the writing, but also in the care of the books. The register shows twenty-five visits of citizens and others, during the year.

District No. 3.—Borough.

Miss Mabel C. Gage, teacher of summer term. Miss Bessie S. Morrill, of fall term. Wages per month, $16; number of weeks: summer, 10; fall, 11; number of scholars: summer, 11; fall, 10; average, 9.

The government of this school is an easy matter, as the scholars are orderly and well-disposed. The improvement in reading was quite marked. The use of the black-board for the spelling and other lessons—an exercise in which all engaged—was decidedly a step in the right direction. Twenty-one visits are recorded in the register.

District No. 4.—Baptist.

Fall Term.—Wages per month, $28; number of weeks, 8; number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 10. The fall term was taught by J. W. Brown, of Loudon, a young man of excellent character and attainments, but without experience in teaching. He evidently labored faithfully and conscientiously in the discharge of his duties, but failing to get control of the school at the beginning, disorderly conduct on the part of some of the scholars greatly impaired his usefulness.

Winter Term.—Wages per month, $28; number of weeks, 8 3-5; number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 9. The winter term was under the charge of Miss Ellen C. Bean, of Tilton. The school was visited by your committee near the close of the first week of the term, when it was found to be under the most perfect discipline, and we felt assured that the

district could hardly fail to enjoy a profitable term. We have no doubt the assurance was realized, though owing to a miscarriage of notice we were unable to be present at the closing exercises. Twenty visits registered.

District No. 5.—Hackleborough.

Summer Term.—Wages, $20; number of weeks, 7; number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 14. Miss Emma J. Jones, the teacher of this term, has been so often and favorably reported to the citizens of Canterbury, that perhaps it is hardly necessary to say more than that she did justice to herself and her deservedly high reputation, and that her labors were made pleasant and profitable by earnest efforts on the part of her pupils to profit by them.

Winter Term.—Wages, $26; number of weeks, 8 2-5; number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 14. This term was taught by Miss Jennie L. Cochran, a teacher of energy and experience. The closing exercises indicated a faithful performance of duty, on her part, and a cheerful co-operation on the part of the scholars, though in some points the school hardly sustained its former high reputation. There were thirty-two visits by citizens and others.

District No. 6.—Hill's Corner.

Summer Term.—Wages per month, $22; number of weeks, 9; number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 9. We think that, considering the circumstances, this may be considered a profitable term. The teacher, Miss Mary P. Payson, was thorough and methodical in her manner of teaching, and tried hard to implant the same habits in her pupils, not without good results, which we could have wished more of the parents might have witnessed at the final examination.

Winter Term.—Wages, per month, $24; number of weeks, 9; number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 10. Mr. Amos C. Lyford, of Tilton, teacher. Sickness, we were informed, interfered somewhat with the progress of the school, and at the closing examination only six pupils were present. These, however, were ready in their answers, though not so accurate in some points as would be desirable. Ten visits reported.

District No. 7.—Centre.

Summer and Fall Term.—Taught by Miss M. Lizzie Putnam. Wages, per month: summer, $28; fall, $32; number of weeks: summer, 10; fall, 10; number of pupils, 34; average attendance, 33. Miss Putnam is a lady of scholarly attainments and a hard-worker, but for some reason she failed, in the summer term, to infuse much zeal and energy into her school. Strict accuracy in all cases was not sufficiently insisted upon, and there was an evident lack of method and system. As a result, on examination day, though some of the scholars did well, the exercises as a whole were not what we had reason to expect. Many of the answers could not be heard across the room, which naturally favored the inference of a lack of confidence on the part of those so answering. In the fall, however, we observed a better state of things. The school appeared to take a new interest in the work before them, and at the close we were glad to notice marked improvement in several directions. The tone of voice was elevated, the answers were more correct, the reading was less mechanical, and the general tenor of the exercises was a decided advance upon the last term. There was considerable attention paid to penmanship, during the summer and fall, and some very creditable specimens of map drawing were shown.

The winter term was under the instruction of Mr. Robert Frame, a young man of energy and perseverance, and possessed of some experience as a teacher. Wages, per month, $34; number of weeks, 10; number of scholars, 31; average attendance, 26. This term has been quite successful, notwithstanding the fact that the attendance has been very irregular owing to the prevalence of sickness.

The examination exercises showed that much good work had been done, and that while the *higher branches* had been successfully taught, the *elements* had not been neglected. The performance of the reading classes was quite a noticeable feature of the examination. The attendance of citizens and others upon the several examinations was large, and numerous visits were made during term time.

District No. 8.—Shakers.

This school had a session of sixteen weeks, in summer, and fourteen, in winter; both terms being under the superintendence of Asenath C. Stickney, assisted during the first term by L. Jeanette Forest. The teacher's natural qualifications for her work have been developed and ripened by study and experience, and under her careful management the school has, in very many respects, become a model. Their arrangements are such as to allow reasonable freedom of movement on the part of the smaller pupils without producing confusion; and the instruction imparted was of an eminently practical character, aiming to teach the abstract through the medium of the concrete. The reading exercises were rendered with a great deal of expression and good articulation; and music and drawing were attended to with very gratifying results. Wages, in summer, $26; number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 18. Wages, in winter, $34; number of scholars, 33; average attendance, 20.

District No. 9.—Union.

Owing to the failure on the part of those whose duty it is to give proper notification, your committee is unable to report the condition of this school.

District No. 10.—Depot.

One term, instructed by Mr. John Pickard. Wages, per month, $28; number of weeks, 10; number of scholars, 10; average, 7. Your committee visited the school after it had been in session one week, and was very much pleased with the mode of instruction, the perfect order, the promptness with which his pupils responded to questions, and his aptness to communicate. We were convinced that this term must be successful, but owing to very severe sickness in our family, we were unable to be present at the closing examination. We are informed, however, that our convictions were more than realized. The instruction was eminently practical, and strict accuracy insisted upon. Considerable attention was paid to composition, and some really good specimens of letters were shown. Number of visits by parents and others, 13.

District No. 11.—Upper Interval.

Wages, per month, $20; number of weeks, 11; number of pupils, 14; average attendance 11. This school has been under the direction of Miss Etta F. Heath, for the year. Miss H. is an earnest and conscientious teacher, and under her care the school has sustained its former good character, and made creditable progress. Number of visits registered, 20.

District No. 12.—Carter.

Single term of nine weeks, taught by Miss Minnie F. Gale. Wages, per month, $20; number of pupils, 12; average attendance, 10. With two exceptions, the scholars came from neighboring districts, the term being so arranged as to admit of their coming until near the close, when they were called away by the opening of their own schools. Those who were present at the examination did very well—the reading classes showing to good advantage. Number of visits registered, 11.

ROLL OF HONOR.

Scholars who have been neither absent nor tardy.

No. 1, *Summer.*

Belle C. Colburn,
Alice C. Colburn,
Minnie O. Gilman,
Sarah A. Colby,
Almon Davis,
Willie A. Davis,
Albert D. Sterling,
Ira W. Stone,
Harvey L. Wallace,
Almon J. Wallace.

Fall.

Belle C. Colburn,
Alice C. Colburn,
Sarah A. Colby,
Ira W. Stone,
Lucia A. Scales,
Joseph H. Scales.

Winter.

Minnie O. Gilman,
Albert Sterling.

No. 2, *Fall.*

Willie B. Dyer,
Horatio F. Dyer,
Edward B. Cobb,
Josiah B. Higgins.

No. 3, *Fall.*

Josie S. Morrill,
Jonnie H. Morrill.

No. 4, *Summer.*

Anna A. Fletcher,
Sarah J. Glines.

Winter.

Belle F. Davis.

No. 5, *Summer.*

Lucy C. Ayers,
Mamie S. Jones,
Laura M. Foster,
A. Cristie Cass,
George J. Sargent,
Charlie T. Foster,
Jona. B. Foster,
Georgie R. Foster,
Preston H. Carr.
Francis P. Cass.

Winter.

George T. Foster,
Lyman B. Foster,
Charlie T. Foster,
Georgie R. Foster,
George J. Sargent,
W. Everett Whipple,
Willie C. Davis,
Mamie S. Jones.

No. 6, *Summer & Winter.*

Lenora M. Dow.

No. 7, *Summer.*

Florence G. Bagley,
Lillian M. Morrill,
Mary M. Emery,
Abbie Josie Emery,
Georgia E. Kimball,
Bertha M. Gale,
Josie M. Brown,
Annie T. Morrill,
Bertha E. Morrill,
Lizzie F. Houser,
M. Emma Morrill,
Willie S. Moore,
Almon J. Small,
Louis D. Morrill,
Charlie E. Morrill,
Freddie E. Moore.

Fall.

Warner B. Cogswell,
A. Josie Emery,
Bertha M. Gale,
Addie M. Haynes,
Moses J. Haynes,
Georgia E. Kimball,
Cora J. Kilton,
Annie T. Morrill,
John W. Morrill,
Willie S. Moore,
Freddie E. Moore.

Winter.

Fred H. Brown.

No. 8, *Summer.*

Bertha Mansfield,
Emma J. Wilson,
A. Ann Smith,
Phebe A. Smith,
Nellie King,
Ida B. Lackey,
Etha E. Newton,
Henrietta Mansfield,
Ida Mansfield,
Jennie L. White,
Minnie E. Clark,
Emma Bell King.

Winter.

George R. Pierce,
Henry Pierce,
Chas. W. Herbert,
Rudolph Kremling,
Solomon E. Aaron,
Albertis E. Newton,
Harry Horton,
Charles F. Gustin,
Carl W. Fitz,
Charles E. Smith,
Samuel Haven,
Forrest White,
Everett White.

No. 10, *Winter.*

Arthur Pickard,
Frank M. Pickard,
Clara Pickard.

No. 11, *Summer.*

Nettie M. Ludlow,
Arthur M. Colby,
Arthur Currier.

Fall.

Addie M. Heath,
Nettie M. Ludlow,
Frank A. Heath,
Arthur M. Colby.

Fellow Citizens: We have presented to you the preceding detailed statement of the condition and progress of the several schools in town, during the past year, as it has impressed itself upon our minds, while in the discharge of our official duties. We believe it to be our duty to present to you a correct and impartial statement as to our schools, and in this belief we have approached the subject with the sincere intention, according to the best of our ability, to do strict justice to all; if it shall appear that we have failed in any case, we hope it may be viewed as an error of judgment, rather than intention. We are more than ever impressed with the magnitude of the interests involved.

Other officers of the town will report to you the financial standing of the town, but to this you look largely to learn the influences which have surrounded all that is most precious to you now, and all that will be most important in our future, for parents trust far too much to other people, and see too little for themselves, of the school life of their children. We are most happy to be able to say that our schools, as a whole, have made an advance from their position in former years—there may be individual instances to the contrary, but we think the general movement has been onward and upward—and, if allowable in this connection, would say that the action of your committee for a few years past, in withholding certificates of qualifiation in some cases, has resulted in securing a higher average of literary attainment among our teachers. But while we consider our common schools of inestimable value, in their present imperfect condition, they need cherishing and improving—improving to that extent that much of the instruction now sought in distant academies may be found in our common schools, thus retaining children longer under home influences. The methods of securing these results have been so often and thoroughly discussed that we will not venture repetition here, but indulge the hope that so much good seed may soon produce fruit.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. EMERY,
JOHN HAM,
W. A. STONE,
} *Superintending School Committee of Canterbury.*